

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY 7/17/74 EXT ,6300

APPROVED BY S/S - SEFRY

EA/PRCM:OVARSTRONG

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P R 172321Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

S E C R E T STATE 155129

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 AND 3

TAGS:PFOR CH, VN, US

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION TO PRCLO ON POSSIBLE DIVERSION OF
US GRAIN TO DRV

1. EA/PRCM DIRECTOR ARMSTRONG CALLED IN PRCLO COUNSELOR
TSIEN TA-YUNG JULY 16, AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE HAVE HEARD THROUGH SHIPPING CIRCLES THAT YOUR GOVERN-
MENT MAY BE SENDING SOME GRAIN PURCHASED FROM THE US TO
NORTH VIETNAM.

-- YOUR GOVERNMENT MAY BE AWARE THAT THERE IS STILL A US
EMBARGO ON TRADE WITH NORTH VIETNAM, BUT IT MAY NOT KNOW
THAT OUR LAWS AND REGULATIONS ALSO COVER DIVERTING US GOODS
TO NORTH VIETNAM.

-- IN OTHER WORDS, US LAWS AND REGULATIONS PROHIBIT THE
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EXPORT OF US GOODS IF IT IS KNOWN THAT THE GOODS MAY

ULTIMATELY BE SENT TO NORTH VIETNAM.

-- WE ARE RAISING THIS MATTER WITH YOU NOW BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ANY DIVERSION OF US GRAIN TO NORTH VIETNAM COULD VERY LIKELY BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND COULD CREATE PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD IMPAIR TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

2. TSIENT (ACCOMPANIED BY SECOND SECRETARY HSU HSIN-HSI) REPLIED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS MATTER. OBVIOUSLY IMPROVISING, HE FIRST OBSERVED THAT US-PRC TRADE WAS CONDUCTED IN PRIVATE CHANNELS, IMPLYING THERE SHOULD BE NO BASIS FOR USG INTEREST. ARMSTRONG EXPLAINED USG REGULATIONS NEVERTHELESS APPLIED IN ANY CASE OF DIVERSION OF US GOODS TO NORTH VIETNAM BY ANY PARTY. TSIENT NEXT, AND MORE PERSISTENTLY, NOTED PRC'S CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR NORTH VIETNAM. ARMSTRONG REPLIED HE WAS AWARE OF THAT POSITION AND NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT ADDRESSED THAT GENERAL SUBJECT. HE POINTED OUT HE HAD LIMITED HIS REMARKS TO POSSIBLE DIVERSIONS TO NORTH VIETNAM OF GRAINS PRC HAD PURCHASED FROM US, AND HAD NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, RAISED QUESTION OF PRC SHIPMENTS OF ITS OWN GRAIN TO NVN. TSIENT CONCLUDED BY REITERATING LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, NOTED THAT HIS OBSERVATIONS WERE "PERSONAL," AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT TO AMBASSADOR HUANG.

3. BACKGROUND IS BEING SENT BY SEPARATE MESSAGE. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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